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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS
IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE,
FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 18 April 1995 from the representatives of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the following documents adopted by the Sixteenth Summit Meeting of the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama and the Prime Minister of Belize:

- Declaration on the Strengthening of Peace and Security in the Central American Region, signed on 30 March 1995 (annex I);

- Declaration of Support for the Establishment and Operation of the Central American Radio Network (annex II);

- Agreement on the Santiago Declaration of 8 March 1995 (annex III);

- Declaration on the Situation in Nicaragua (annex IV);

- Declaration of San Salvador II (annex V);

- Programme of Immediate Action for Investment in Human Capital pursuant to the Declaration of San Salvador II (annex VI);

- Treaty on Central American Social Integration (annex VII).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes distributed as a document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fernando BERROCAL SOTO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Costa Rica to the United Nations

(Signed) Ricardo G. CASTANEDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
El Salvador to the United Nations

(Signed) Rafael CASTELLANOS-CARRILLO
Ambassador
Alternate Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Guatemala to
the United Nations

(Signed) Gerardo MARTINEZ-BLANCO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Honduras
to the United Nations

(Signed) Max STADTHAGEN
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua
to the United Nations

(Signed) Ruth DECEREGA SMITH
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Panama to
the United Nations

(Signed) Edward A. LAING
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Belize to the United Nations

ANNEX I

Declaration on the Strengthening of Peace and Security in the Central American region

The Central American Presidents,

Considering the urgent need to strengthen the peace processes in Central America and thus to guarantee the stability and security which are essential to consolidation of the democratic political order and the economic and social development of our peoples,

Recognizing the tremendous importance for Central America of an early end to the armed conflict in Guatemala,

Aware that the necessary conditions exist in Central America for establishing a relationship of interdependence between an agenda for peace and an agenda for development and that, with the support and efforts of international solidarity, the region can become a model of conflict resolution, consolidated by peace and democracy through comprehensive development and the adoption of political solutions,

Reaffirming the joint commitment to eradicate the use of violence to achieve political power, the existence of illegal armed groups, terrorism and acts of destabilization as totally unwarranted actions in the region, in that they threaten the democratic system, the full exercise of human rights and the consolidation of peace and democracy in Central America,

Hereby agree:

1. To support the peace efforts promoted by the Government of Guatemala to bring about an early end to the internal armed conflict and thus to guarantee peace and security in that country and, consequently, in the region;

2. To reiterate the commitments made in the "Procedure for a Firm and Lasting Peace in Central America" (Esquipulas II) (A/42/521-S/19085), in particular, the commitment not to allow irregular or insurrectionist groups or forces to use their territory for military, logistical, financial or propaganda operations or for assembling troops, weapons, ammunition or any kind of equipment for the purpose of attacking or destabilizing any country in the region, nor to assist such groups or forces to that end;

3. To condemn any internal armed conflict in the region, since such conflicts have no place in democratic countries that are run by Governments elected freely by popular vote and in societies that are seeking development and reconciliation;

4. To condemn the actions of irregular groups, urging them to agree to an early cease-fire and appealing to them to refrain from terrorist acts and any other activities that jeopardize the rights of all citizens and particularly affect the physical safety and the property of civilians.

Hereby sign this Declaration at Cerro Verde, Republic of El Salvador, on 30 March 1995.

(Signed) José María FIGUERES OLSEN
President
Republic of Costa Rica

(Signed) Armando CALDERON SOL
President
Republic of El Salvador

(Signed) Ramiro DE LEON CARPIO
President
Republic of Guatemala

(Signed) Carlos Roberto REINA
President
Republic of Honduras

(Signed) Violeta BARRIOS DE CHAMORRO
President
Republic of Nicaragua

(Signed) Ernesto PEREZ BALLADARES
President
Republic of Panama

(Signed) Manuel ESQUIVEL
Prime Minister
Belize

ANNEX II

Declaration of Support for the Establishment and Operation of the Central American Radio Network

Convinced of the need to promote and implement the commitments entered into by our Governments in various fields, through mass dissemination campaigns aimed at increasing the awareness and involvement of our peoples, with a view to contributing to the attainment of the objectives of the integration process and of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America,

We hereby declare:

Our support for the establishment and operation of the Central American Radio Network, sponsored by the Governments, radio broadcasting associations and cooperating agencies of Central America, with a view to fostering coexistence, sustainable development, integration, peace, freedom, democracy, human rights, child welfare, health and education throughout the region. This action will be supplemented by the resolute cooperation of the region's telecommunications companies.

We hereby sign this Declaration at Cerro Verde, Republic of El Salvador, on 30 March 1995.

(Signed) José María FIGUERES OLSEN
President
Republic of Costa Rica

(Signed) Armando CALDERON SOL
President
Republic of El Salvador

(Signed) Ramiro DE LEON CARPIO
President
Republic of Guatemala

(Signed) Carlos Roberto REINA
President
Republic of Honduras

(Signed) Violeta BARRIOS DE CHAMORRO
President
Republic of Nicaragua

(Signed) Ernesto PEREZ BALLADARES
President
Republic of Panama

(Signed) Manuel ESQUIVEL
Prime Minister
Belize

ANNEX III

Agreement on the Santiago Declaration of 8 March 1995

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration adopted at Santiago, Chile, on 8 March 1995 in support of the joint implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Considering that joint implementation gives the developing countries an opportunity to participate more effectively in the international market, while providing a new and additional source of resources to help attain the long-term objectives of sustainable development,

Hereby agree:

To endorse the Santiago Declaration aimed at launching a pilot phase in the execution of joint implementation programmes. Joint implementation offers a source of income from the private sector of developed countries that is additional to and separate from official international cooperation and that is provided as a counterpart contribution for the environmental services that our countries have always offered the world.

Hereby sign this agreement at Cerro Verde, Republic of El Salvador, on 30 March 1995.

(Signed) José María FIGUERES OLSEN
President
Republic of Costa Rica

(Signed) Armando CALDERON SOL
President
Republic of El Salvador

(Signed) Ramiro DE LEON CARPIO
President
Republic of Guatemala

(Signed) Carlos Roberto REINA
President
Republic of Honduras

(Signed) Violeta BARRIOS DE CHAMORRO
President
Republic of Nicaragua

(Signed) Ernesto PEREZ BALLADARES
President
Republic of Panama

(Signed) Manuel ESQUIVEL
Prime Minister
Belize

ANNEX IV

Declaration on the situation in Nicaragua

The Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama and the Prime Minister of Belize,

Considering the political will demonstrated by the Government of Nicaragua in opting for dialogue and negotiation as appropriate means of solving problems and guaranteeing harmonious national coexistence based on democratic principles and the rule of law,

Considering the tremendous progress made in building democracy in Nicaragua, which reflects the deep-seated desire of the people of Nicaragua to consolidate a new era of peace and reconciliation in the country,

Aware that the efforts of the Government of Nicaragua to resolve the differences existing between the executive and legislative branches pave the way for solving problems by the means afforded by democracy, without interrupting the democratic process in the country,

Hereby agree:

1. To support the process of institutional dialogue that has begun in Nicaragua among the four branches of government with a view to resolving their differences regarding constitutional reforms, differences which are understandable in a process of democratic transition;

2. To encourage the various branches of government in Nicaragua to continue their efforts to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions, consolidate the rule of law and find solutions to the problems that exist, within the legal framework in force.

Hereby sign this Agreement at Cerro Verde, Republic of El Salvador, on 30 March 1995.

(Signed) José María FIGUERES OLSEN
President
Republic of Costa Rica

(Signed) Armando CALDERON SOL
President
Republic of El Salvador

(Signed) Ramiro DE LEON CARPIO
President
Republic of Guatemala

(Signed) Carlos Roberto REINA
President
Republic of Honduras

(Signed) Ernesto PEREZ BALLADARES
President
Republic of Panama

(Signed) Manuel ESQUIVEL
Prime Minister
Belize

ANNEX V

Declaration of San Salvador II

We, the Central American Presidents and the Prime Minister of Belize, have met at San Salvador, Republic of El Salvador, to follow up and continue to promote the basic commitments stemming from the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America and expressed in the agreements reached at Guácimo, Masaya and Tegucigalpa, which constitute a new regional agenda. On this occasion we have focused on the social sphere, in view of its high priority, with the aim of promoting sustainable human development; one issue of transcendent importance in this regard is investment in human capital.

To that end, we have issued the following:

DECLARATION OF SAN SALVADOR II

In order to progress further in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development in Central America, we must unite our efforts in a spirit of solidarity to address the problems caused by widespread unemployment, social disintegration and poverty, which continues to affect a large proportion of the Central American population. The recent changes which have taken place in the region and the world as a result of the globalization of production, new computer-based technologies and new organizational methods have generated a series of challenges. Regional integration in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, with due respect for pluralism and ethnic diversity, takes on particular relevance in this context.

To meet these challenges, and based on the conviction that development, peace and democracy are inextricably linked, we have adopted a regional strategy, manifested in the Alliance for Sustainable Development, which emphasizes investment in the social sphere and the joint planning and coordination of efforts and objectives under an economic and social development model that lays the groundwork for enhancing the well-being of our peoples.

Since human beings are the centre and the subject of sustainable development, it is essential to strengthen and, where necessary, create the conditions they require to realize their full potential. This involves broadening their opportunities for all-round participation in the various aspects of development, improving their quality of life and fostering their creative and productive capacity through solidarity. This is Central America's greatest challenge for the twenty-first century.

To that end, with the support and participation of society as a whole, we pledge to focus our investment efforts on human beings by expanding, creating and ensuring access to greater opportunities for education, training, science and technology, culture, food and nutrition, health, housing, water, sanitation, social security, productive employment and income for the entire Central American population. These efforts must be made in an atmosphere that promotes

the full exercise of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for present and future generations.

In accordance with the commitments that make up the new regional agenda and those agreed upon at the recent World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen, we reaffirm our intention to take decisive action to fight poverty, generate employment in productive activities and promote social integration and cohesiveness, full respect for human dignity and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights, with particular emphasis on equity and equality of opportunity between men and women and on the rights of children, youth, the elderly and the disabled.

To ensure the viability of these objectives, we reiterate our commitment to increase substantially, and to use with more efficiency and transparency, the resources allocated to the social sphere; moreover, we invite the international community to join us in this effort by increasing cooperation for development and according special treatment to the issue of external debt. Likewise, we invite international financial institutions to support and finance our social development programmes, with special emphasis on investment in people as a prerequisite for improving our countries' integration in the international economy.

Aware that this effort requires the support and involvement of civil society at the national and regional levels, we undertake to promote the latter's organized participation in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of social policies, programmes and projects, as well as decentralization and the strengthening of development at the local level.

To reaffirm our commitment to improve the population's quality of life, we have signed the Treaty on Central American Social Integration, known as the Treaty of San Salvador, which was formulated and submitted by the Regional Social Affairs Commission. The Treaty establishes, within the Central American Integration System, the legal, institutional and operational framework for promoting Central American social integration; the Council for Social Integration shall be responsible for its implementation.

Lastly, we are sincerely grateful to the people and Government of El Salvador for their hospitality and their unfailing spirit of brotherly goodwill, which contributed significantly to the success of this meeting. We

have decided to hold the next Meeting of Central American Presidents in the Republic of Honduras.

Cerro Verde, Republic of El Salvador, 30 March 1995.

(Signed) José María FIGUERES OLSEN
President
Republic of Costa Rica

(Signed) Armando CALDERON SOL
President
Republic of El Salvador

(Signed) Ramiro DE LEON CARPIO
President
Republic of Guatemala

(Signed) Carlos Roberto REINA
President
Republic of Honduras

(Signed) Violeta BARRIOS DE CHAMORRO
President
Republic of Nicaragua

(Signed) Ernesto PEREZ BALLADARES
President
Republic of Panama

(Signed) Manuel ESQUIVEL
Prime Minister
Belize

ANNEX VI

Programme of Immediate Action for Investment in Human Capital pursuant to the Declaration of San Salvador II

1. We enjoin the Council for Social Integration to formulate and adopt, by no later than September 1995 and in consultation with the advisory body, the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs and the Consultative Committee, a regional social policy based on the general guidelines agreed upon in this programme.

2. We enjoin the Ministers of Planning and Finance to put in place, by no later than November 1995, new national and regional mechanisms for increasing the funding of social development investment programmes, particularly anti-poverty and management evaluation programmes. These mechanisms must also seek to ensure increased involvement of and support from the business sector, local governments and communities.

3. We request the Regional Consultative Group for Central America, as one of its more immediate tasks, to convene a meeting of cooperating agencies to expand existing mechanisms for international cooperation and identify new ones, in order to supplement national efforts.

4. We undertake to elaborate a proposal for updating and harmonizing national laws on the family, from the new perspective of protecting and promoting the rights of families, and we instruct the Council for Social Integration and the corresponding national institutions to draw up such a proposal in consultation with the Central American Court of Justice and the Central American Parliament.

5. We undertake to consolidate the national offices for women in each country, elevating them to the rank of high-level governmental decision-making bodies, so that they can support the advancement of women. We likewise undertake to design and put in place mechanisms to guarantee equal opportunities for women with respect to training, employment, production resources and new technologies, promoting their full participation in the democratic process, in public administration at the national and local levels and in such decision-making bodies as society as a whole may see fit.

6. In fulfilment of the agreements entered into at the World Summit for Children and with emphasis on the Nariño Commitment, we enjoin the corresponding national institutions to review and update their national plans for children and to transmit that updated information to the Council for Social Integration by no later than July 1995, so that it can consolidate and analyse the progress made and assign increased resources for comprehensive child welfare programmes.

7. We undertake to draw up a Central American plan of action for the technical and vocational training of the labour force, involving greater private-sector participation, horizontal cooperation and the incorporation into training curricula of advances in science and technology, changes in production processes and new market trends. To this end, we enjoin the Ministers of Education and

Labour, in coordination with the corresponding national institutions, to draw up the above-mentioned plan and submit it to the Council for Social Integration.

8. We undertake to prepare a proposal containing mechanisms to help micro- and small enterprises and the informal sector increase their productivity and become more fully integrated in the formal economy. In this regard, we enjoin the Ministers of Planning or Social Affairs, in coordination with the corresponding national and regional bodies, to prepare the proposal, which should also provide for the streamlining of governmental mechanisms in order to help achieve this objective. The proposal will have to be submitted to the Council for Social Integration in October 1995.

9. We undertake to develop a programme of health education and promotion which encourages comprehensive health, reinforces healthy lifestyles and develops responsibility for individual and collective health, fostering community participation and horizontal cooperation. We therefore instruct the Ministers of Education and Health jointly to undertake, by no later than the last quarter of 1995, the relevant action to comply with this mandate.

10. We enjoin the Council for Social Integration to undertake, in coordination with the Meeting of the Central American Health Sector, the relevant action to identify funding mechanisms to permit the implementation of phase III of the Central American Health Initiative.

11. We undertake to formulate and implement a regional programme of training and exchanges of experience on the modernization of public sector institutions, particularly in the social field, in order to achieve greater efficiency, quality and coverage in the provision of services and greater transparency and responsibility in the use of resources. We entrust that activity to the national bodies responsible for modernization so that, with the support of the Central American Institute of Public Administration, they can submit to the Council for Social Integration, by no later than September 1995, a programme proposal that envisages sources for its funding.

12. We enjoin the Ministers of Labour and the Economy to present to the next regular Meeting of Central American Presidents a proposal on wage and job-creation policy, together with a proposal on the means of harmonizing labour, welfare and social security legislation in Central America.

13. We enjoin the Council for Social Integration to present to the next regular Meeting of Central American Presidents a follow-up report on the tasks assigned to the Council in the present Programme of Immediate Action for Investment in Human Capital pursuant to the Declaration of San Salvador II.

14. We hereby agree to request the Inter-American Development Bank, through the Regional Consultative Group for Central America and in coordination with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to supplement the action that is being taken by evaluating the operational management of the organs and institutions for Central American integration, so as to modernize them with a view to making their procedures and results more effective and efficient, in accordance with the priorities and terms of reference to be adopted by the principal coordinating body of the Central

American Integration System. To this end, we enjoin regional integration bodies to cooperate as fully as possible in this effort. The evaluation will have to be carried out with the participation of eminent Central Americans whose viewpoint is clear and objective.

15. We reiterate to the Inter-American Development Bank the high priority that we attach to having a regional strategy for human resources training which takes into account our needs in the areas of modernization of the State, labour productivity and the training of managers for subregional and hemispheric integration. We also enjoin it to attempt to streamline the national and regional bodies responsible for coordination in this area and to strengthen the specialized regional bodies. We also urge the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to take these needs into consideration and to give us its fullest support in these efforts.

We hereby sign this Programme of Immediate Action for Investment in Human Capital pursuant to the Declaration of San Salvador II, at Cerro Verde, Republic of El Salvador, on 30 March 1995.

(Signed) José María FIGUERES OLSEN
President
Republic of Costa Rica

(Signed) Armando CALDERON SOL
President
Republic of El Salvador

(Signed) Ramiro DE LEON CARPIO
President
Republic of Guatemala

(Signed) Carlos Roberto REINA
President
Republic of Honduras

(Signed) Violeta BARRIOS DE CHAMORRO
President
Republic of Nicaragua

(Signed) Ernesto PEREZ BALLADARES
President
Republic of Panama

(Signed) Manuel ESQUIVEL
Prime Minister
Belize

ANNEX VII

Treaty on Central American Social Integration

The Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama,

Considering:

That they are parties to the Tegucigalpa Protocol of 13 December 1991, which created the Central American Integration System (hereinafter referred to as SICA) as a legal and institutional framework for the overall integration of Central America, and that, within that System, the social sector constitutes a subsystem for integration in the social area;

That in the general content of the aforementioned Tegucigalpa Protocol, as well as in its supplementary agreements or associated instruments and in the regional strategy known as the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, social aspects form an integral and inseparable part of the set of measures adopted by the Central American countries in the political, economic, cultural and environmental spheres;

The need to establish a legal and institutional framework in the social field, based on the premise that the human person is the centre and the primary subject of development, with the objective of ensuring a substantial improvement in the quality of life of the Central American peoples;

The importance of the active participation of the various components of civil society in bringing about the social integration of Central America, and the need to involve civil society creatively and permanently in efforts to ensure that our peoples can live together in a climate of equity, justice and development,

Accordingly decide:

To conclude this Treaty on Central American Social Integration.

SECTION I

NATURE AND CONCEPT OF THE PROCESS OF CENTRAL AMERICAN SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Article 1. The States parties undertake to bring about the social integration of Central America in a voluntary, gradual, complementary and progressive manner, in order to promote increased opportunities and a better quality of life and work for the population of Central America, ensuring that they share fully in the benefits of sustainable development.

Article 2. Social integration shall entail the implementation of a series of policies, mechanisms and procedures which, in accordance with the principle

of mutual cooperation and collective support, shall guarantee both the access of the entire population to basic services and the full development of the potential of the men and women of Central America, based on overcoming the structural determinants of poverty, which affects a large proportion of the population of the Central American region.

Article 3. This instrument, which complements and derives from the Tegucigalpa Protocol, organizes, regulates and structures the social subsystem, which covers the social area of SICA.

Article 4. The process of social integration shall be promoted through the coordination, harmonization and convergence of national social policies among themselves and with other SICA policies.

Article 5. The process of social integration shall be implemented within the legal and institutional framework of SICA, in accordance with each country's own realities, characteristics and evolution, respecting the values and cultures of the various ethnic groups and of the Central American community as a whole.

SECTION II

PRINCIPLES, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE PROCESS OF CENTRAL AMERICAN SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Article 6. Principles. The States parties shall proceed in accordance with the following principles:

(a) Respect for life in all its forms, and recognition of social development as a universal right;

(b) The concept of the human person as the centre and subject of development, which requires the adoption of an overall approach linking the various aspects of development in order to promote sustainable social development;

(c) Consideration of the family as the essential nucleus of society and the focus of social policy;

(d) Promotion of peace and democracy as basic forms of human coexistence;

(e) Non-discrimination on grounds of nationality, race, ethnic origin, age, illness, disability, religion, sex, ideology, marital or family status or any other kind of social exclusion;

(f) Harmonious coexistence with the environment and respect for natural resources;

(g) Condemnation of all forms of violence;

(h) Promotion of universal access to health care, education, housing and healthy recreation and to decent economic activity with fair remuneration;

(i) Preservation and recovery of the region's cultural pluralism and ethnic diversity, within a framework of respect for human rights;

(j) Active support for an inclusion of community participation in the management of social development.

Article 7. Pursuant to and in fulfilment of the objectives laid down in the Tegucigalpa Protocol, the States parties shall also pursue the following objectives:

(a) To achieve the comprehensive, sustainable development of the population of Central America within a framework of equity, subsidiarity, shared responsibility and self-management, through the promotion of solidarity among societies and cooperation among individuals, families, communities and peoples in the region;

(b) To attain regional conditions of well-being and social and economic justice for peoples, within a broad regime of liberty which ensures the full development of the individual and society;

(c) To promote, in a harmonious and balanced manner, the sustainable social development of the States parties and of the region as a whole, based on the eradication of poverty, social participation and environmental protection;

(d) To encourage economic and administrative decentralization in the design and implementation of social policies;

(e) To promote equality of opportunity among all persons, eliminating practices of legal or de facto discrimination;

(f) To give priority to the promotion of investment in the human person with a view to the latter's all-round development.

Article 8. Scope. The State parties undertake:

(a) To achieve the sustainable development of the population of Central America, combining political tolerance, democratic coexistence and economic growth with social progress and ensuring the healthy functioning of ecosystems vital for human life, on the basis of an effective dialogue enabling Governments and other sectors of society to act in solidarity;

(b) To identify and tackle regional social problems jointly, within a framework of sustainable development;

(c) To promote the gradual and progressive harmonization of their social policies, with the object of laying the foundations for a Central American Community;

(d) To take advantage of economies of scale and various strengths in the social field, promoting horizontal cooperation;

(e) To improve and strengthen the allocation of resources in the area of social spending and investment in order to overcome the structural determinants of poverty, giving priority to the least advantaged groups;

(f) To propose medium- and long-term policies for ensuring the attainment of the objectives and goals of the programmes of the social subsystem;

(g) To set up mechanisms for cooperation and the exchange of methodologies, resources and technologies among the member countries;

(h) To promote the strengthening of local governments and the organization of local communities.

SECTION III

INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION

Article 9. The social integration subsystem shall comprise:

1. Organs:

(a) The Council for Social Integration;

(b) The Council of Ministers of Social Affairs;

(c) The Secretariat for Social Integration.

2. Advisory body:

The advisory and consultative body composed of the spouse of the President or a personal representative of the President of each country, which shall hold regular meetings during the Meetings of Presidents and special meetings when so desired.

3. Institutions:

Those SICA institutions which deal primarily with social issues shall work directly with the social integration subsystem. Support for the attainment of the objectives of this Treaty shall be provided, in particular, by the following institutions:

(a) The Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama;

(b) The Central American Bank for Economic Integration;

(c) The Central American Institute of Public Administration (ICAP).

4. Consultative Committee:

The Consultative Committee on Social Integration shall be composed of the various representative sectors of the region which are involved in the Central American social integration effort.

Article 10. Such other entities or institutions as are established or recognized by the States parties during the social integration process shall also form part of the social integration subsystem. The institutions referred to in article 9, paragraph 3, shall retain their full functional autonomy in accordance with their respective constituent treaties or agreements.

Article 11. The Council for Social Integration:

1. The Council for Social Integration shall be composed of the coordinating minister of the social cabinet of each country and, in his or her absence, the deputy minister.

2. The Council for Social Integration shall have, inter alia, the following functions:

(a) To comply with and enforce the provisions of this Treaty;

(b) To coordinate and promote the social integration subsystem;

(c) To formulate, evaluate and update regional social policy, with a view to putting together a programme of work that will make it possible to rationalize and coordinate social development efforts. The guidelines to be adopted by the Meeting of Central American Presidents in this regard and the overall policies deriving from supplementary instruments shall form an integral part of this Treaty;

(d) To promote the coherence of agreements reached by Central American social bodies;

(e) To establish criteria and formulate proposals for joint participation by the Central American countries in international meetings or forums dealing with social issues;

(f) To promote and follow up the social agreements adopted at the Meetings of Presidents, elaborating, analysing and transmitting proposals in the social area for presentation, through the competent bodies, in accordance with the provisions of the Tegucigalpa Protocol;

(g) To mobilize the necessary institutional, human and financial resources for carrying out regional initiatives defined by the Council, in accordance with the mechanisms established by SICA;

(h) To meet with representatives of ministries in other areas if the interrelationship of social issues so warrants;

(i) To perform any other function which the Meetings of Presidents may establish in the area of social integration.

3. The Council for Social Integration shall meet during the Meetings of Presidents, and whenever it deems appropriate, to coordinate and promote the social integration process, and may convene meetings of the advisory body in exercise of its functions.

Article 12. The Council of Ministers of Social Affairs shall comprise the Meeting of Ministers for each social area, which shall consider specific topics of relevance to its work and within its sphere of competence, and the Intersectoral Meeting of Ministers for these areas, which shall coordinate decisions regarding Central American social integration. To this same end, similar meetings of representatives of specialized national entities not included in this section may also be held.

Article 13. Secretariat for Social Integration:

The Secretariat for Social Integration shall be the technical and administrative organ of the Central American social integration process. It shall also act as secretariat for those organs which do not have their own secretariat.

The Secretariat for Social Integration shall be headed by a Secretary appointed by the Council for Social Integration for a period of four years. The Secretary shall be the legal representative of the Secretariat.

The Council for Social Integration shall regulate the administrative and budgetary organization and define the functions and attributes of the Secretariat for Social Integration.

Article 14. The Secretariat for Social Integration shall have the following functions:

(1) To ensure, at the regional level, the proper implementation of this Treaty and other legal instruments concerning regional social integration, and the implementation of decisions of the organs of the social subsystem;

(2) To monitor the attainment of the objectives and goals of programmes and projects defined within this framework;

(3) To carry out such activities as the Council for Social Integration assigns to it. It shall have the power to make proposals concerning social issues;

(4) To serve as liaison for the activities of the sectoral secretariats of the social subsystem and to ensure coordination with the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System in accordance with the provisions of article 8 of the Tegucigalpa Protocol and in exercise of its functional autonomy.

Article 15. Meetings:

1. Meetings of organs of the social integration subsystem shall be convened by means of written notification from the respective secretariats and by agreement of their members.

2. The presence of a simple majority of representatives of all the member countries shall constitute a quorum for such meetings.

3. If, for lack of a quorum, a meeting cannot be held on the date indicated in the first notification, it may be held on the date specified in a second notification to consider the same agenda and with such members as are present. If the agenda includes an item which relates solely and exclusively to a given country, it shall not be discussed unless the country concerned is present, without prejudice to the consideration of other items on the agenda.

4. Decisions of organs of the social subsystem shall be adopted by a consensus of their members, which may be reached through meetings and/or through official written communications. The absence of a consensus shall not prevent the adoption of decisions by some of the countries, but such decisions shall be binding only on those countries. If a member country has not attended a meeting of the organ in question, it may inform the respective secretariat in writing that it endorses the decision.

Article 16. The Consultative Committee on Social Integration shall be a sectoral committee of a purely consultative nature. It shall advise the Secretariat for Social Integration and shall work with the Consultative Committee of SICA in the context of article 12 of the Tegucigalpa Protocol.

SECTION IV

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Article 17.

1. Administrative action by the social integration subsystem shall take the form of resolutions, regulations, agreements and recommendations.

2. Resolutions shall be binding actions through which the Council for Social Integration and the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs, within their respective spheres of competence, take decisions relating to the internal affairs of the subsystem.

3. Regulations shall be general actions which are binding in all their aspects and directly applicable in all the States parties.

4. Agreements shall be specific or individual in nature and shall be binding on those concerned.

5. Recommendations shall contain guidelines which are binding only as regards their objectives and principles and serve for the drafting of resolutions, regulations or agreements.

6. The secretariats of organs of the social subsystem shall provide the Secretariat for Social Integration with a record of all their decisions.

7. Resolutions, regulations and agreements shall be deposited with the General Secretariat of SICA and shall enter into force on the date on which they are adopted, unless another date is specified therein.

8. Resolutions and regulations shall be published in the official gazettes of the States parties.

SECTION V

SPECIAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 18. The Secretariat for Social Integration shall have legal personality under international law and shall sign a headquarters agreement with the Government of the State in which it is located.

Article 19. It shall have its headquarters in Panama City, Republic of Panama.

Article 20. The organs, institutions and staff of the social integration subsystem shall enjoy in the territory of the States parties the privileges and immunities which those States grant to regional institutions within the framework of SICA.

Article 21.

1. This Treaty shall be submitted for ratification in each signatory State, in accordance with its respective constitutional norms and norms of ordinary law.

2. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the General Secretariat of SICA.

3. This Treaty shall be of indefinite duration and shall enter into force, for the first three depositors, eight days after the date of deposit of the third instrument of ratification and, for the others, on the date of deposit of their respective instruments of ratification.

4. This instrument may be denounced by any of the parties. Such denunciation shall take effect five years after it is presented, but the Treaty shall remain in force among the other States for as long as at least two of them remain parties thereto.

Article 22. This Treaty shall be deposited with the General Secretariat of SICA which, on its entry into force, shall send a certified copy thereof to the

Secretariat of the United Nations for registration in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 23. No reservations whatsoever shall be made to this Treaty.

Transitional article. Until such time as a financing system is established, the States parties shall continue to contribute to the operating costs of the Secretariat for Social Integration.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Presidents of the Central American Republics sign this Treaty, which shall be known as the Treaty of San Salvador, at Cerro Verde, Republic of El Salvador, on 30 March 1995.

(Signed) José María FIGUERES OLSEN
President
Republic of Costa Rica

(Signed) Armando CALDERON SOL
President
Republic of El Salvador

(Signed) Ramiro DE LEON CARPIO
President
Republic of Guatemala

(Signed) Carlos Roberto REINA
President
Republic of Honduras

(Signed) Violeta BARRIOS DE CHAMORRO
President
Republic of Nicaragua

(Signed) Ernesto PEREZ BALLADARES
President
Republic of Panama